

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04

OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-07 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 /121 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8597

UNCLAS ALGIERS 1593

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BEXP

SUBJ: NATIONAL EXPORT POLICY TASK FORCE

REFS: A) STATE 95673; B) STATE 124590

1. EMBASSY REGRETS NOT HAVING RESPONDED EARLIER TO REF A.

2. BY REFERENCE WE WOULD LIKE TO ASSOCIATE OURSELVES WITH THE MANY RESPONSES THE DEPARTMENT SURELY RECEIVED FROM POSTS POINTING OUT THAT NO EXPORT EXPANSION PROGRAM CAN BE TRULY EFFECTIVE WHICH DOES NOT ATTACK THE FORMIDABLE BARRIERS TO EXPORT THAT HAVE BEEN CREATED BY THE CONGRESS AND SUCCESSIVE ADMINISTRATIONS. READERS OF THIS TELEGRAM ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPEDIMENTS TO TRADE CAUSED BY OUR ANTI-TRUST LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS, ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS, TAXATION OF OVERSEAS AMERICANS, ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS, TO NAME A FEW, AND FURTHER AMPLIFICATION IS NOT NECESSARY.

3. IT IS CLEAR FROM REF B THAT, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, THE TASK FORCE IS HOLDING THESE LARGER ISSUES IN ABEYANCE AND IS FOCUSING ON MORE SHORT-RUN, EASILY ACCOMPLISHED MEASURES. GIVEN THIS PREMISE, WE OFFER TWO SUGGESTIONS:

A. WE BELIEVE THE USDOC-ADMINISTERED EXPORT ADMINISTRATION REG-

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ULATIONS ARE EXCESSIVELY COMPLICATED AND BURDENSOME AND CONSTITUTE, IN MANY CASES, AN UNECESSARY HINDRANCE TO TRADE. IN ALGERIA AND IN MOST OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES THE MEDIUM-SIZE OR SMALL IMPORTER WHEN FACED WITH THE REQUIREMENT TO COMPLETE FORM DIB-629P WILL SOLVE HIS PROBLEM SIMPLY BY CHANGING HIS SOURCE OF SUPPLY. WE SUGGEST THESE REGULATIONS BE EXAMINED WITH A VIEW TOWARD THEIR SIMPLIFICATION AND STREAMLINING.

B. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FACILITATE, RATHER THAN HINDER, GREATER COOPERATION OR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PRIVATE US FIRMS AND US EMBASSIES AND DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND STATE. WE SHOULD MOVE FROM A FACILITATE ROLE TO ONE OF ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT. THIS WILL REQUIRE ATTITUDINAL CHANGES WITHIN THE FOREIGN SERVICE AS WELL AS WITHIN THE WASHINGTON BUREAUCRACIES. IF A PROCEDURE, REGULATION OR EVEN HISTORIC PRACTICE INHIBITS OUR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT, THEN THAT PROCEDURE, REGULATION OR PRACTICE SHOULD BE RE-EXAMINED. AS A SMALL EXAMPLE WE CITE THE EMBASSY'S ATTEMPT TO GET "WASHINGTON" TO AGREE TO A PROCEDURE WHEREBY A US FIRM COULD PAY FOR AN ALGERIAN TENDER DOCUMENT IN WASHINGTON OR AT ANY US EMBASSY; WE COULD BE NOTIFIED BY TELEGRAM THAT PAYMENT HAD BEEN MADE; THEN WE COULD PURCHASE THE TENDER ON BEHALF OF THE US FIRM AND MAIL IT. THIS WOULD SAVE A WEEK OR TEN DAYS, WHICH IS AN IMPROTANT CONSIDERATION WHEN TENDER LEAD TIMES ARE SHORT AS THEY ARE IN ALGERIA AND IN MANY OTHER LDC'S. WE WERE TOLD THIS COULD NOT BE DONE, AND WE WERE TO CONTINUE TO ADVISE THE FIRMS TO REQUEST DOCUMENTS DIRECTLY. THIS SEEMS TO US NONSENSE; IT IS THIS KIND OF THINKING THE TASK FORCE MIGHT ADDRESS ITSELF TO CHANGING. STEPHAN

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